



# MUFON

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 3 / Issue 6

*The Truth is Out There . . .*



Ray Maurer - State Director  
Tom Taylor - Asst. State Director  
Doris Barley - Yuma Section Director  
Mary Hart - Newsletter Producer

**UFO HOTLINE: (602) 407-2685**

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**MEETING DATE: Monday, June 20, 1994 ♦ MEETING TIME: 7:30 Sharp**  
**LOCATION: 8227 E. Orange Blossom, Scottsdale, AZ (Clubhouse)**  
**PROGRAM: Ray Maurer will speak on his Monroe Institute experience**

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### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

"I am more than my physical body. Because I am more than physical matter, I can perceive that which is greater than the physical world." this was the affirmation that we used in my recent trip to the Monroe Institute located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The institute was founded by Robert Monroe as a research center for expended consciousness. Mr. Monroe was a successful businessman in network radio who, all of a sudden, was having spontaneous, out-of-body experiences that no one could explain.

In the ensuing years, Monroe and his group developed means and methods of inducing this and other forms of consciousness in the lab. Using a method called Hemi-Sync, whereby sound is used to induce altered states of consciousness, subjects can now achieve an OBE and other higher states through a learned procedure. the really interesting aspect of this whole process is the fact that it is geared to left-brain individuals like me. You don't have to spend 10 years at an Ashram with some smelly guru to learn the techniques.

And experiences we did have. Very subtle, yet very real and very valid. For the first time in my life I now understood first hand what people had been telling me about energies and other non-physical realities. I have often said that the UFO phenomenon is much more complex than just flying saucers. I think if we are ever to understand these issues, we must take a much broader view of reality itself.

At the next meeting I will be sharing with the group my experiences at the Monroe Institute in my quest for greater knowledge.

As always, I welcome your input and suggestions.

Ray Maurer, State Director



### MEDIA WATCH by Tom Taylor

In the interest of keeping the UFO topic before the public, the following is a list of programs on the subject recently aired via television, radio and newspaper in recent weeks. We will attempt to list programs ahead of time whenever possible; unfortunately, we are not notified of the majority of programs until it is too late to publish them in the Newsletter in time for members to view, hear or read them. In the case of TV and radio programs, ask at MUFON meetings to see if anyone is aware of someone who may have taped them to share.

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Local Public Access Cable [Dimension Channel 22 in some areas] - UFO-AZ/UFO TALKS. Ted Loman, Jim Nichols and Rick Keefe co-host this continuing series featuring interesting guests and topics related to all aspects of the UFO experience.

May 21 - Freedom Ridge (overlooking Area 51 in Nevada) - news reporters nearly came to blows over the exclusive broadcast rights to a UFO outing. Seems reporters and crew from Fresno, CA and a reporter and crew from Salt Lake City, UT couldn't get along!

June 5 - Parade Magazine - Astronomer and UFO skeptic Carl Sagan has listed July 16-21 as the time when 21 fragments of the Comet Shoemaker-Levy (dubbed the "String of Pearls") are anticipated to strike Jupiter. No one really knows what will happen when this occurs!

June 7 - Sun Magazine - "Mystery in Brooklyn Bridge Abductions" was the title of an article appearing in the Sun. However, the John and Helen Anderson mentioned in the article are unfamiliar names to me.



They claim to have witnessed the abduction made famous by Budd Hopkins.

June 15 - KTAR 620 Radio, 9:00 p.m. - Straus's Place. **George Knapp**, the investigative reporter from Las Vegas who did the article on the Soviet UFO happenings.

July 31 - Showtime (Cable) TV - "Roswell," the new made-for-cable movie about the 1947 Roswell crash and its aftermath will *finally* be aired. Set your VCRs! [Time not yet announced.]

John Mack continues to make the rounds on the TV talk shows. Even the New York Times did an article in the Sunday magazine section.

Omni Magazine continues with its six-part article concerning UFOs. The May issue contained an article by Mufon member Dennis Stacy. The Washington D.C. UFO wave of July 1952 is featured, as well as the government's attempt to cover up the fact that UFOs were flying over the White House!

The June issue of Omni features Allen Hynek and his "swamp gas" Michigan sightings occurring in March 1966. I hope Mr. Stacy has all his facts straight . . . he stated that the now-defunct Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization was located in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. I guess my memory must be failing, since my correspondence from that organization were all mailed from Research headquarters in -- Tucson, Arizona!

Tom Taylor  
Asst. State Director

### **NEW SECTION DIRECTOR FOR YUMA COUNTY/WESTERN ARIZONA**

Doris Barley, MUFON member from Yuma, has recently been named MUFON Section Director for the Yuma County area. Doris, a regular contributor to this Newsletter with many interesting articles, has also recently taken and passed the MUFON Field Investigator's Examination. Congratulations, Doris! Her address and phone number are: 3730 Lakeside, Yuma, AZ 85365 (602) 726-0576.

### **RECENT UFO SIGHTINGS**

No sighting reports have been received on the MUFON-AZ Hotline for some time now. But in the past few days fragmentary reports of a "mother ship" sighting near Cottonwood; a possible "crash" near Sedona, and a possible sighting just to the south of Phoenix have been received. You, our MUFON-AZ members, are the eyes and ears of our organization -- please report anything of interest on the Hotline number ((602) 407-2685).

### **CATTLE MUTILATIONS IN NEW MEXICO**

[The May issue of the New Mexico MUFON Newsletter contains an account of an animal mutilation investigation taking place April 10 on a cow found April 8 near El Rito in Northern New Mexico. Then on June 7 Mary Hart received a letter from Gene Nieri,

former Asst. State Director of New Mexico MUFON, who has become quite involved in animal mutilation investigation work and is a professional videographer. The following excerpts were taken from Gene's letter to Mary.]

I designed new animal mutilation questionnaires which we distributed at the May 21 seminar in Taos. [A sample questionnaire is attached in this Newsletter.]

On the morning of May 14, Gail Staehlin [NM MUFON animal mutilation coordinator] got a call from a rancher in the Taos area who said he had found a fresh mutilation. He said it couldn't have been dead more than two or three hours. Gail then called Linda Howe, who in turn called John Altshuler, the pathologist who has done much work for Linda. About an hour later, the rancher called Gail again saying he found another dead cow, both showing signs of mutilation. Gail notified Linda that there were now two animals involved. Linda must have been quite excited over this, because she's been waiting to find fresh mutilations in order to get good tissue samples.

Within three hours everything had been coordinated: John's flight to Santa Fe, where we picked him up that afternoon; a veterinarian in Taos had been alerted, and the northern New Mexico Cattle Inspector was advised. We drove to Santa Fe, picked up John, drove on to Taos to meet the veterinarian, and then continued to Angel Fire to meet the rancher and the cattle inspector. By the time we all got to the first site about 100 yards from the shore of Eagle Nest Lake, it was 7:30, a half hour before sunset.

We parked near a small ranch house near the lake and still had to walk in quite a ways, even having to climb over a barbed-wire fence. That was tricky, to say the least, especially when you're carrying camera equipment, tripods, and two large sample-gathering cases containing little jars, formaldehyde, scalpels, rubber gloves, etc.

It took about 45 minutes to film, tape, take tissue samples, and cut the body open to check the internal organs. The two doctors found evidence of pneumonia in the lungs, which was the same with the second animal (both were bulls) on the other side of the lake which we investigated later that evening.

While I was videotaping all this, it began to rain softly and the wind picked up. My video camera kept cutting out. I was only able to get about 20 minutes total on both bulls. Toward the end, I would tape 10 seconds; then my battery would give out; then I'd tape 10 or 15 more seconds; then it would shut down again. Strange, because I came with two fully-charged battery packs, and both reacted in the identical way. I attributed this to the high humidity which automatically shuts down the camera to protect the recording heads, but Linda said this is typical in incidents like this!

It was so dark while we were investigating the second animal that we had to circle the body with three pickup trucks and turn on their lights to get enough illumination to see and photograph the cutting and examination. Just imagine, 50 yards from the shore of the lake, dark storm clouds all around, lightning flashes in the distance, six people in the wind and the rain cutting up a bull . . . and hundreds of bullfrogs croaking in the distance! Stephen Spielberg couldn't have come



up with a better scene. We returned to Santa Fe, had dinner, dropped John off at a hotel (Linda had her own transportation) and then Gail and I drove back to Albuquerque. We got home about 4 a.m.

The Taos seminar on the 21st went well. About 35 ranchers from northern new Mexico showed up for our "show and tell." We had slides, videos and literature for them, hoping this will interest them sufficiently to want to help us in getting more information about cattle mutilations. One more thing -- we had through a source in Taos about a report that indicates the pneumonia we found in the lungs of *both* animals we investigated may be caused by *chemicals sprayed on the specimens while they are still alive*. Potassium may be one of the chemicals. Our source is getting a copy of this report for us.

Gene Nieri  
New Mexico

### JIM NICHOLS VISITS PHOENIX

On his way back from the "LA UFO Expo" over the weekend of June 11 and 12, internationally known UFO artist and co-host of UFO-AZ Jim Nichols was able to stop through Phoenix for a visit with Tom Taylor and Mary Hart. He reported that Richard Hoagland and Bob and Cecilia Dean, among others, were also in attendance. He told us that Bob Dean will be hosting a World Update conference in the Holidome in Tucson next August -- possibly with Paul Davids, who was involved with the production of the new *Showtime Cable* movie "Roswell," as a guest speaker. We'll keep you informed of the exact date and time as those details become available.

Jim also discussed his earlier report he and Ted Loman had received concerning a purported UFO crash in the Sedona area sometime during the first week in June; this possible event was also reported to Tom Taylor by a MUFON-AZ member. We are still attempting to find out details about this alleged crash; if anyone else has information, please advise!

It was a pleasure to see and speak with Jim again, and we issued an open invitation to him and to all the rest of the Tucson "group" to attend any of our monthly meetings!

### ANGELS AND ALIENS - BOOK REPORT

Author: Keith Thompson - \$12 paperback

Keith Thompson seeks to show that Near Death Experience, Shamanic Encounters (e.g. Kenneth Ring's UFOs as Cosmic Shamanism), Out of Body experiences (a'la Robert Monroe) and UFO experiences (observations, encounters, or abductions) are all connected by "meta patterns . . . to the tenuous dimension known as ordinary reality."

Before you allow that seemingly dubious effort (and the garish cover so typical of books that deal with UFO phenomena) to turn you off, be advised that Thompson has done a wonderful job of summarizing all the twists and tangents which have occurred in the last five decades of UFO study. Encompassing an extensive bibliography, a comprehensive index and thorough footnotes, he has done a service to the beginning

student and the sophisticated aficionado seeking to understand the UFO phenomena.

It seems that nothing relating to the UFO's emergence as a phenomena of modern consciousness has escaped his scrutiny. It is with an academician's eye for fairness and a scholar's efforts to be comprehensive that he notes every turn in the highway and numerous byways of UFO research from past to present.

Techies, Trekkies and Nuts & Bolts types will all be equally offended by Thompson's conclusions: i.e., UFOs, whether real or imaginary, have definitely landed in the mythic imagination of man and they will not soon vanish even as we, like the mythical Sisyphus, continue to seek and fail in our quest to get to the top of this mountain of mystery. Most readers, nevertheless, will appreciate the fact that Thompson has left scarcely a pebble unturned in his own quest to establish the thesis.

This is a welcome book in a field that is too often short of intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity. It will provoke thoughtful dialogue among inquisitive believers and honest skeptics alike. Now, if we could just get publishers to get rid of those ugly covers on books that deal with serious subjects!

Book Report by Herbert Moran  
Arizona MUFON

### THREE KINDS

In UFOlogy there are three kinds of people:

First, true believers who indiscriminately swallow anything, the more exotic the better. Everything -- from New Age beliefs to underground bases full of aliens or right-wing conspiracies by pot-bellied capitalists -- is unquestionably accepted. Sometimes they even sit in the desert waiting for benevolent space brothers who will tell them not to smoke, eat only vegetables, and not to play with atomic bombs.

On the other end are the debunkers. This is a hopeless lot. A UFO full of greys could land in their own backyard, and they would still stubbornly deny their existence.

Squeezed in between is an array of open-minded skeptics who accept only facts -- once they are proven. The best example of an open-minded skeptic is St. Thomas (was he an engineer?). He demanded proof . . . once he got it, he fully accepted and even died for it. Without going that far, this is the correct path in UFOlogy. Besides, skeptics make the best investigators and analysts because they will not distort or omit data in order to fit their preconceived theories, since by definition they don't have any. Their beliefs are facts only.

I consider myself to be one of these. Strictly nuts and bolts and extraterrestrial tendency. No socio-psychobabble for me. But as we progress . . . and we do . . . new discoveries, especially on the spiritual level, may alter my position just for basic honesty's sake. But they'd better be convincing! I would like to start a series of short articles dealing with UFO problems,



sometimes writing as a skeptic, a "devil's advocate," in order to provoke an answer or rebuttal. Our Newsletter is excellent, but let's enliven it more -- it may be interesting!

Dimitri (Jim) Ossipov  
MUFON-AZ Member

[NOTE: We repeatedly ask for everyone's donation of articles to your newsletter -- please take Dimitri's advice and become more involved!]

## WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

MUFON is a flexible organization. It has general guidelines but state chapters have a latitude to regulate themselves.

Our State Director provides us with a wide variety of speakers, ranging from strictly nuts-and-bolts to supernatural.

It is our privilege, as members, to listen or if the topic is too far-fetched for our taste, or if the speaker is boring, to discreetly leave (I did so twice last year). Our meeting is one of the rarest of forums where the speakers are assured not to be laughed at, or sent to the nearest funny farm. Last year we had a contactee who did not want to hurt or religious sensitivities -- and his story missed a point. Wrong! We should be mature enough to hear all kinds of tales without being offended and wise enough to accept or reject them for ourselves. Our strength is in our variety of opinions. Otherwise we may become a regimented bunch, or even worse . . . a cult.

We are on the right track!

Dimitri (Jim) Ossipov  
MUFON-AZ Member

## Alienated?

How to survive (and even remember) a close encounter.

If you're going to Rachel, you might consider taking along the Schwa Alien Invasion Survival Kit, a creation of Reno artist Bill Barker. Helpful items in the kit include an alien detector, which flashes red (hopefully) in the presence of an interplanetary being, and a lost-time detector to determine whether you've been abducted and have no memory of the encounter.

Barker says he named his alien company for the schwa, the vowel sound shown in the English dictionary as an upside-down "e," which he says symbolizes the untranslatable and unknown.

"How can anyone know for sure



whether aliens exist or not?" Barker says. "One way to deal with it is through humor."

About a year ago, Barker developed Schwa as a cartoon starring stick figures and alien icons, and it ran in the University of Nevada, Reno student newspaper, *The Sagebrush*. Schwa recently has been adapted for note cards and T-shirts.

Alien kits go for \$13 and other unworldly gifts are available for less than \$20. Write Schwa at Box 6064, Reno, NV 89513 for information. In Reno, the Made in Nevada store in Park Lane Mall and the Sundance and Bold Print bookstores carry Schwa alien items. —Carolyn Graham

Saturday, May 21, 1994 THE YUMA (ARIZ.) DAILY SUN

# Astronomers brace for comet collision with Jupiter in July

Scripts Howard News Service

## WASHINGTON

A kamikaze comet continues to close in on the planet Jupiter, prompting astronomers around the world to get ready for what some experts say could be the biggest explosion human beings have ever witnessed.

Telescopes are expected to be focused on Jupiter when pieces of the comet, fractured by the giant planet's enormous gravity, collide with the planet between July 16-22.

The collisions are expected to create explosions rivaling the one on Earth that may have led to the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, researchers said at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The actual impact will occur on the planet's far side, and will not be immediately visible to ground-based telescopes. But because of Jupiter's fast rotation, the impact site should be visible within a matter of minutes or hours at most.

At any rate, the Galileo space probe is beyond Jupiter and will be able to document the impact as it happens.

"Virtually every telescope in the world will point to Jupiter in June, July and part of August," said Lucy McFadden, co-coordinator of the University of Maryland-based worldwide effort to observe the collision.

While predicting the explosion will be "a significant fraction" of the impact that wiped out the dinosaurs, the scientists emphasized they were uncertain just what would happen, and how visible the event will be from Earth because the 20 or more comet fragments are hidden in the comet's tail of dust particles.

The size of the fragments — which may be an average of 1.2 miles in diameter — will determine the magnitude of the impact.

The fragmented comet was first discovered March 23, 1993, at the Mount Palomar observatory near Los Angeles. Scientists say the comet, which orbits around Jupiter, may have fragmented in July 1992 during a close pass by Jupiter.

The larger comet fragments are expected to hit Jupiter's atmosphere from July 16-22. The largest fragment is expected to strike on July 18.

Scientists can only speculate how the planet's atmosphere and magnetic field might be affected by the comet's carbon and silicon dust.

"We expect that this dust and the release of this new material may have a significant disruption on structures of the magnetosphere," the magnetic field, McFadden said.

The celestial spectacle may be visible to advanced amateur astronomers, who may see the flashes of explosion visible as reflections on the planet's inner moon or off the planet's ring particles.

Each flash may last just seconds, and the exact timing of those flashes will be disseminated as the collision nears, said Heidi B. Hammel, principal research scientist, Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"People who are new to this and want to see Jupiter itself, what we would suggest is that they monitor Jupiter very carefully now before the impact occurs and familiarize themselves with what the cloud structure is already like, because we suspect that the little clouds that are going to be formed are going to be very, very small," Hammel said.

According to one computer simulation, the explosion will occur from the bottom of the atmosphere and will spread sideways and upward following the entry way of the comet.

"It explodes out the top of the atmosphere. That's the fireball that we are looking for," McFadden said. The fireball may last two minutes.

Still, the total impact on the planet may not be large. If Jupiter were 5½ feet tall, the comet would be smaller than a speck of dust, Hammel said.

Whatever the impact, a fleet of spacecraft and satellites will be focused on the comet and Jupiter as the time for the collision approaches. The Galileo spacecraft, managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, is expected to take direct images of the impact.



## RANDLE AND SCHMITT DEBUT NEW BOOK IN ROSWELL

by Peter Limone and Chris Board, NM MUFON

With eager anticipation, we left Albuquerque at 7 a.m. on March 26 for Roswell via Corona. South of Corona, we followed the footsteps of Mac Brazel through the barren New Mexico landscape to "Our Mecca," only to find dirt, nasty wind, sheep pellets and no UFO crash debris. We did drive by the Proctor family ranch house.

Once in Roswell, we passed by The International UFO Museum and Research Center. There were already ten people gathered outside, in anticipation of the arrival of authors Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt, but the museum wasn't due to open for another two hours. Avoiding a nasty car accident, we arrived at the Outa Limits UFO Enigma Museum. After signing the guest book and looking around, we were surprised to find the two authors hiding out in the back room. They came out and introduced themselves to us. Peter questioned Kevin about the possibility of his hearing about any other UFO crashes in New Mexico. Kevin had nothing to report for other NM crashes, but is currently working on a paper about all alleged UFO crashes throughout the world. We also asked him about the latest rumor about a possible Steven Spielberg project devoted to Roswell. He told us that it wasn't true, and then introduced us to Paul Davids, the executive producer of "Roswell," who confirmed this.

Then, out of the blue Phillip Klass (infamous UFO debunker) walked in the door. Phil was impressed with the expansion of the museum since his last visit. Armed with his tape recorder, he cornered Kevin Randle. Amongst the flurry of questions, Phil asked why his name was credited on page 191 in the index of the new book but did not appear there! Kevin grabbed a copy off the shelf and found page 191. "See, Phil, right there at the top... there you are."

"Well, it's not in my copy" said Phil.

"We will be happy to write your name on page 191 of your copy for you."

After more browsing of the museum and Peter taking a picture with Phil Klass next to the crashed saucer exhibit, we went to lunch.

After lunch we went to The International UFO Museum for the eagerly awaited press conference for MUFON members only. Along with Randle and Schmitt was Glenn Dennis, the Roswell mortician back in 1947. Many questions were asked, including "Why did the crash date change?" and "Have you found the nurse from the airfield



hospital?" (most of these answers can be found in the new book).

Most of the MUFON members were from El Paso, and southern New Mexico. One special guest present during the press conference was Command Sgt. Maj. Robert O. Dean. He was recently featured in April 94' *OMNI* magazine.

After getting our books signed we drove to the old Roswell Army Airfield. We changed into our bicycle clothes for a wonderful ride through the old base and past Hangar 84. During the ride back home, we listened to an audio "books-on-tape" of Whitley Strieber's fictional account of Roswell, *Majestic*. Our day spent with some leading UFOlogists was enlightening and fun. Most of this visit was serious research, but time with our colleagues also proved to be very entertaining.

Intl. UFO Museum  
400 N. Main St.  
Roswell, 88202  
(505) 625-9495

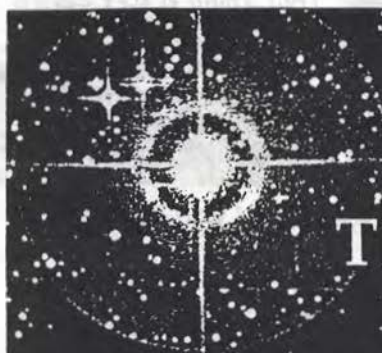
Outa Limits  
6108 S. Main St.  
Roswell, 88202  
(505)-347-2275

Reprinted from New Mexico MUFON News



"You abducted him—you feed him."





We Are Not Alone  
We Are Finding Out  
This Changes Everything

# Coming of Age in the Cosmic Neighborhood

An Illustrated Lecture by Michael Lindemann  
Saturday, July 16 in Scottsdale

Many astronomers and astrophysicists today are convinced that the universe must be teeming with intelligent life. It's just a matter of time, they say, before we start discovering our cosmic neighbors.

It's not fashionable, however, to imagine ourselves as the discovered — the object of someone else's scrutiny. Less fashionable still is the notion that our religions, our cultures, even our species may be the product of someone else's meddling.

Unfashionable yes, even outrageous — but evidence does suggest that "alien" visitors have already reached our door, perhaps even in deepest antiquity.

If so, who are these others? Extraterrestrials from another planet? Travelers through time? Denizens of other dimensions? Can we even tell the difference between a "god," an "angel" and an "alien?"

Perhaps our best experts have never been able to tell. Perhaps they feel baffled and powerless before the greatest mystery of our time. Perhaps this is why the best evidence of human-alien contact remains above top secret.

Such notions seriously challenge our sense of reality. Denial and disbelief are bound to persist. Even so, huge changes may be upon us. "Coming of age in the cosmic neighborhood" may well mean opening ourselves to a reality much bigger, much stranger and much more inhabited than we ever expected!

**Michael Lindemann** is a futurist, author and head of the 2020 Group Visitors Investigation Project, founded in 1989 to assess the claims and possible implications of genuine human-alien contact. His publications include the 1991 book *UFOs and the Alien Presence: Six Viewpoints*, the report *UFOs and the New World Order* (revised edition 1994) and the videotitles *UFOs and the Alien Presence* and *UFOs and the Global Situation*. During the past year, his speaking engagements have taken him to every part of the United States.



**Date:** Saturday, July 16, 1994

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**Place:** Sunburst Hotel Conf. Center  
4925 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale

**Tickets:** \$8.00 at the door

Students & Seniors (60 up): \$5.00

**Info:** Call Donna at (805) 964-3889



## Holland UFO: 'Weirdest thing I saw in my life'

More and more people from the Holland area claim they saw the object last week.

By MICHAEL G. WALSH  
Chronicle staff writer

The craft hovered silently above the neighboring rural Holland farmhouse, some 25 yards away from where the children watched television.

Its lights, inset on the globe-shaped object's body, oscillated in the spring darkness, but there was no noise. It was about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Michelle Graves, 10, and her brother, Joseph, 14, fled their living room and alerted their parents, Holly and Darrell Graves.

"It was the weirdest thing I saw in my life," said Holly Graves, 36, of 354 Country Club Road. "I was in the bedroom and I heard the kids say 'Look at this, look at this.'"

As she and her husband raced to their living room window, what they saw shocked them, they said. Across the roadway, hovering just above tree level, was... something.

"It was just sitting there. It was a big circle. It had lights, but they weren't blinking. It was circular and turning and not blinking."

The children were excited — "my kids were yelling and screaming," Mrs. Graves said — and the parents called 9-1-1. Holland police responded.

The object remained in their vision no longer than 10 minutes, the family said.

"It was there, turning and then it went south, slowly at first," Mrs. Graves said. "That wasn't a weather balloon. It wasn't a plane. I don't know what it was."

Michelle Graves said she, too, is mystified about what she saw.

"It had all kinds of lights going in a circle and it was right above the farmer's house," Michelle Graves said. "It was pretty big, maybe as big as the house."

Joseph Graves said "it was too big to be a balloon. It was as big as a couple of cars at least. It had white lights and every once in a while they changed to red."

Owners of the farm house where the craft supposedly hovered were out of town at the time of the incident and unavailable for comment.

Lee Lamberts, sports editor of the Holland Sentinel newspaper, said he saw unusual lights in the shape of a boomerang about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. The craft, which sounded like a single jet engine, moved slowly over Holland High School field house, he said.

"The formation (of lights) stayed perfect," Lamberts said. "It sounded distinctly like one jet, but there were half a dozen lights, up to 10. It wasn't going real fast, just a leisurely pace."

Randy Murphy, an Ada resident, said her husband awakened her Tuesday night to tell her "there's a UFO outside."

Murphy said she and her husband saw a low-flying craft hovering about 100 feet above the treetops.

It looked like a conventional airplane with very bright lights," Murphy said. The craft gave off "a soft, whirring noise," she said.

"It was very slow-moving. That's what caught our attention," Murphy said.

One law enforcement professional who lives near the Graves' residence in Holland said he's seen strange things that he can't explain.

Last month, said the neighbor, who spoke on condition he is not identified, he watched a "bluish-green light" flash from west to east.

"I thought there was going to be an explosion," the man said. "But then it took a zig at high speed."

The object, the man said, "was a globe thing. It was pretty unusual."

So unusual, he said, that he took the time to write the event on his calendar — 9:25 p.m. Feb. 4.

Last Tuesday's event — earlier reports were confusing about the day of the sighting — prompted Ottawa County Central Dispatch about 9:30 p.m. to contact National Weather Service radar operators.

Such a practice is not unusual.

"It would be our practice to call the weather service to give us information about why an officer was observing something unusual," said dispatch deputy director Rebecca Schatney. "That's protocol. I've done that myself."

One officer who responded, in a pre-recorded statement to Mutual UFO Network investigator Donald Ashley, said by the time he arrived all he could see were lights in the night sky.

The lights were heading in a southwest direction, the officer said.

"All of a sudden it shoots that way — the southwest," Holly Graves said. "But it was unlike any airplane I ever saw. It was no airplane."

What the weather radar operator found surprised him, said Leo Grenier, official in charge of the Muskegon National Weather Service office.

"He did pick up echoes in the approximate location of the sighting and moving in the same manner as described by those seeing it on the ground," Grenier said.

The object's — or objects' — speed fascinated those who observed it, both on the ground and on radar. Grenier said. It "zipped" from South Haven to 10 miles west of the city, over Lake Michigan, in 10 seconds.

"The echoes were very strong, appearing to create an echo about 15,000 feet high, extending 10,000 to 25,000 feet in altitude," Grenier said.

Tower personnel at the Muskegon County Airport also sighted what appeared to be aircraft flying in formation far south of Muskegon, Grenier said.

Officials aren't saying what the sighting was, but skeptics are quick to point out that the "spacecraft's" initial path took it across corn fields in the direction of the Tullip City Airport.

## Service held for woman in bizarre fumes case

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Relatives of a woman at the center of a mysterious episode of fainting at a hospital paid their final respects at a memorial service.

Six emergency-room staffers apparently were overcome by fumes Feb. 19 after a dying Gloria Ramirez, 31, was brought into Riverside General Hospital.

Authorities had held Ramirez's body for two months while they tried to determine the cause of her death and the source of the fumes. Their findings have not been released.

About 80 people attended the service Tuesday. She was buried Wednesday.



# 'A hermit from his kind'

## Travis Walton wouldn't take that journey again

If he had it to do over, Travis Walton says he would stay in the truck.

This is the Snowflake resident who five friends say was taken up in some kind of spaceship on a lonely mountain road almost 20 years ago. Walton himself described the encounter when he was found nearby, terrified and disoriented. All the men took polygraphs — and passed.

I believe Walton.

This alienates me, as it were, from some bright people I respect who say we don't get visitors from other realms. But it is in line with other equally intelligent views that it would be arrogant to assume we know enough about the universe to tell whether or not we live alone out here.

These are not questions Walton set out to answer when he drove down the rutted dirt road in the White Mountains after cutting slash timber with a crew all day. It was November of 1975. His best friend Mike was the crew foreman. From when Travis disappeared until he turned up, gossip pointed a crooked finger at Mike and the other men as murderers.

An autobiographical book called *The Walton Experience* tells the story as Travis remembers it. But it's almost impossible to find, until it's reprinted this spring. A movie called *Fire In The Sky* tells the story as Hollywood sees it. Is it accurate?

"As good as you can get out of Hollywood these days," Walton says. I watched it, and called him back, horrified. I'd always wanted to believe that a civilization can't achieve space travel until it's no longer wasting energy fighting; only peaceful races working together can make the jump from moon landings to galaxy crossings. Was the aliens' ship really so dilapidated? Were they so cruel when they examined him? And were those catacombs with decomposing bodies of earlier alien finds real?

No.

"It was a sterile environment," Walton says. "They didn't actually hurt me. They had larger eyes and smoother skin than in the movie, and they wore coveralls."

But it seemed painful at the time because of the terror; Walton was like a baby being handled by an unknown doctor under bright lights. No matter how compassionate the treatment, it seems horrible to the startled defenseless subject with no context for this experience.

Walton doesn't talk about all this much. He doesn't go to conventions to meet other people with alien-abduction stories, although he's been asked. He works again at the mill where he was foreman before, although he's had to start at the bottom again.

"My way of coping is just to put it in a box, and put it behind me," he says. Does



**LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER**

Special for The Arizona Republic

he believe stories of space kidnappers — some lurid testimonials about women impregnated by aliens? There's a pause.

"It would be ironic for me, with so much said against me, to be in the position of finger pointing," he says. "I'm not really in a position to comment on other people's experiences."

I believe close encounters of most kinds are as unreported as date rape, because we are afraid of being alienated and typecast as hysterical crackpots. It is that reaction, Walton says, that would keep him from getting out of the pickup to see the huge glowing light up close, if he could live that night 19 years ago over again.

"It just completely changed everything. No aspect of my life could ever be the same again," he says. "To a great extent, it's because of people's reactions."

He's lived in Snowflake for about 25 years, and used to be the last to leave a party and the first to start a conversation.

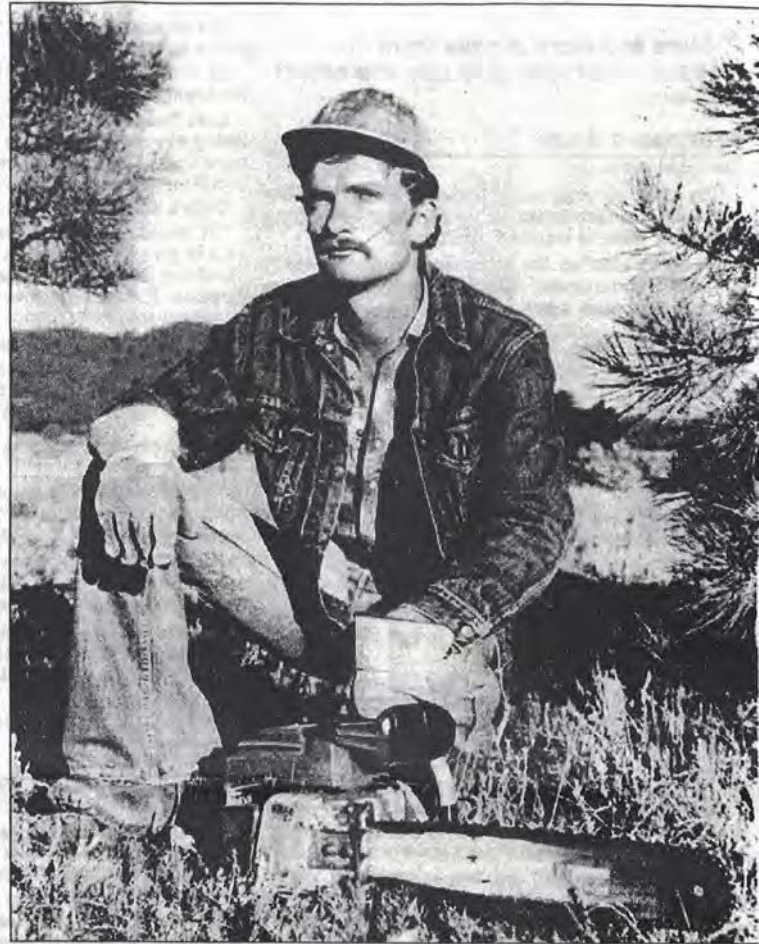
"Now I try to keep to myself; don't socialize. Sometimes, I've thought about getting up and going, but I wasn't about to be run out."

But Walton doesn't blame Snowflake.

"Say what you will about small towns, but I would have gotten the same reaction in the city."

Walton isn't a new-age dreamer or a braggart. He speaks simply; he seems humbler, and nicer, than he would have been if his life had continued on its casual rural course. He has a low voice with the flat rich tenor of northern Arizona. He married the woman he was engaged to at the time of the incident, and they have four children. But his friend Mike may have been even more scarred than Walton himself. In the movie, disillusioned that townspeople suspect him of murder and then don't believe the alien abduction happened, Mike becomes a recluse in a forest shack. The real-life Mike has moved to another town, Walton says, but the pieces of his life never fit the same way.

"Our families got together at Christmas and New Year's," says Walton,



Travis Walton: "Now I try to keep to myself; don't socialize."

who married Mike's sister. "He didn't come."

Walton says not a day goes by that he doesn't think of the experience, and he can't calculate how it changed his life.

"It's like the road took one direction, and we don't know where the other ones would go," he says.

I believe Walton when he says he would choose to be cautious instead of curious given the chance again. But I wonder if Cortez wouldn't have stayed out of what is now Arizona if he could have foretold the loss of life and illusions that awaited him. If John Wesley Powell would have turned back from running the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon had he known he would lose beloved crew members. If pioneers who came to Arizona would have stayed in Boston had they been able to see in advance the searing desolation.

Explorers and those who dare have always been ridiculed; told to stay home and get over it. Someday, I believe Walton will rank with the earliest stragglers in other venues we now take for granted that were heretical at their beginnings. I am reminded of another Arizonan who connected with the stars: Percival Lowell. Inscribed on his mausoleum on Mars Hill in Flagstaff, where he did the work leading to Pluto's discovery, is something Lowell said about himself — and I believe about Travis Walton:

"... to see into the beyond requires purity ... and the securing of it makes him perforce a hermit from his kind ... for in common with most explorers, he will encounter on his return ... the certainty of being disbelieved."

Lisa Schnebly Heidinger is a Phoenix writer. Her column appears every Sunday.



## WATERING HOLE IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

By JOE BERGER / Staff writer

**RACHEL, Nev.** — The Little A'Le'Inn may not look like much, but the dusty pub in the middle of the Nevada desert is one of the most fascinating places on the planet — because it's the only bar on Earth where space aliens come to wet their whistles!

Local folk who frequent the tiny tavern hardly bat an eye these days when a visitor from some faraway solar system strolls in and plops down at a corner table.

"Some of these spacemen look pretty strange, but some of them look so much like us you'd never know they weren't human if they didn't act so odd," says easygoing Joe Travis, who runs the remote roadhouse with his wife Pat.

"The other day one of 'em came in and sat right over there by the slot machines for 12 hours. The entire time, he never said anything, never ate anything, never drank anything — and never even went to the bathroom.

"Then, when closing time came he just got up, walked out the door and disappeared. We didn't make a nickel off that g y."

But more often, the A'Le'Inn's interplanetary patrons grab a bite to eat and something to drink before zooming off into the sunset. And they pay their tab with crisp green bills.

"I don't know where they get their money, but I'm glad they've got it," Pat Travis says. "There are hardly enough real people around here to keep this place open."

Though Earthlings are

**Earthlings Welcome in Tiny Town Where Odd Aircraft Fly Overhead**

**DUSTY PUB** has made headlines around the country for serving aliens.



"EARTHLINGS WELCOME" reads a sign at the only bar on Earth that serves both humans and aliens!

scarce, UFO experts say there are more E.T.s strolling around this sleepy hamlet north of Las Vegas than anyplace else on Earth, thanks to a constant stream of starship traffic in and out of nearby Nellis Air Force Base.

Researchers swear the Pentagon is doing more than testing super-sophisticated warplanes at Nellis. They say it's also conducting tests

on nine captured alien spaceships stowed in hangars at the base — and meeting on the sly with the occupants of countless UFOs that zip in and out of Nellis every day.

And when the top-secret meetings are over, it seems, the E.T.s often head for the Little A'Le'Inn (pronounced A-Lee-nn) to unwind.

"You never know when they're going to pop in and you never know what they're going to look like when they do," insists Pat Travis. "But they pretty much keep to themselves, and our regulars just leave them alone. This is a real friendly place."

And the enterprising Travis, who bought the inn six

years ago, keep it friendly by making sure their customers feel right at home — no matter what planet they hail from.

"Earthlings Welcome" proclaims a sign outside the front door of the converted trailer. And a few feet away, another sign invites UFO crews to come in and quaff a few.

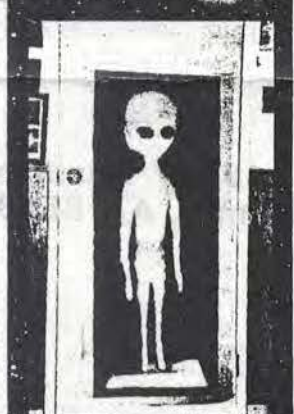
A wooden replica of a flying saucer sits outside the bar and a papier-mache alien's head is perched atop the jukebox. The restaurant's favorite offering is the Alien Burger — made from unmutated cattle — and the bar's best-selling drink is a concoction called the Beam Me Up, Scotty.

But despite the frivolous trappings, those aliens snooping around Rachel are no joke to the cowpokes, ranchhands and assorted good ol' boys who belly up to the A'Le'Inn bar every day at dusk.

"A lot of our customers have been abducted by aliens," Pat Travis says. "Around here, nobody kids them about it."

And Pat herself insists an invisible creature from another world has been her constant companion for months.

"Three psychics have told us that beings we can't see are present in this bar, and one of them is with me all the time," she says. "We call him Archi-



FULL-SIZE alien photo on barroom door helps visiting E.T.s feel at home.

bald and he's been a good friend."

One day recently, the unsuspecting lady was barreling down Highway 375 when Archibald's voice sounded out loud and clear.

"He told me, 'Pat, slow this car down!' I slowed down from 65 miles an hour to 35 and suddenly there were two big black bulls in the highway right in front of me. If he hadn't warned me, I'd have been killed for sure."

"So around here nobody laughs about space aliens. One of them saved my life."

## Savage gangs scalping each other in brutal turf wars

Gang members in Chicago have taken to scalping each other in their brutal turf wars, a police source says.

"We've had 13 cases in the past five months where young men have been killed and

then scalped by opposing gang members," said the unidentified source. "These kids are savages."



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